

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

October 14, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554



Re: Reply Comments on Modernizing the E-Rate Program (WC Docket 13-184)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The undersigned members of the Wisconsin Library Association Board of Directors support the Commission's comprehensive E-rate reform efforts which focus on program changes to better support the 21st century learning needs of our schools and the information needs of our public libraries. From the Wisconsin perspective, the E-rate program has been very successful. Each year it provides our state's school and libraries with \$35 million to support their broadband connectivity and Internet access.

Last month the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction—our state's public K-12 school and public library agency—submitted detailed comments to the Commission on the E-rate reform process (see <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7520943611>). These comments included:

- Support for the E-rate program's three goals with special emphasis on goal #1 which acknowledges the critical role the E-rate has to ensure our schools and libraries have access to adequate and affordable broadband connectivity.
- Support for the Commission to set broadband speed and cost guidelines, but not mandates.
- Support for dark fiber and allowing schools and libraries to own their broadband (WAN) circuits, when it is cost effective to do so.
- Support for the phase-out of some currently eligible services, but stating that doing so will not solve the need for more E-rate funding.
- Support for many of the proposals in goals two and three including: More equitable Priority 2 funding, streamlining consortium applications, minimizing review for minimal funding requests and direct payment to applicants.

We the undersigned organizations support the comments filed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Furthermore, we hope the Commission will proceed with all possible haste to implement many of the program reforms in the department's comments. We thank the Commission for the opportunity to lend our support to this important effort.

Paula Ganyard
President

Krista Ross
Vice president/President-elect

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